

House Resolution No. 3613

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who admirably answered the patriotic call to national service through their enlistment in the various branches which make up the United States military during times of worldwide turmoil; and

Whereas, Max J. DeForest was born on March 3, 1923, on a farm south of Woodbine, Iowa, to Jesse and Hazel DeForest; graduated from high school in 1940; took his army physical on May 22, 1944; married his beloved Fern Henderson on May 25, 1944; and reported to the military on July 18, 1944; and

Whereas, after training at Fort Robinson in Little Rock, Arkansas, Max DeForest shipped out for the European Theater on New Year's Day, 1945, aboard the cramped quarters of the Queen Mary; and

Whereas, Max DeForest arrived in western Germany as a replacement in the 78th Infantry "Lightning" Division just in time to engage in the Battle of the Bulge, a strategic event which netted him a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, a Bronze Star with "V", the Combat Infantry Badge, a Good Conduct Medal, the Marksman Award for the M1 rifle, an Overseas Service bar, the European, African, Middle Eastern Theater ribbon with three bronze stars, and the World War II Victory Medal; and

Whereas, after returning from the war, Max DeForest rose to Vice President and Director of Tractor Supply Company in Omaha, Nebraska, before purchasing Race Brothers Farm Supply in Springfield, Missouri; and

Whereas, Max DeForest also has been an invaluable leader in the Wheatbelt distributorship of Kansas City, the Ozark County Fair Board, Rotary Club, his church, and tours which promote southwest Missouri economic development and investment; and

Whereas, Max DeForest and his wife have been truly blessed with the love and affection of their two sons, Craig and Roger of Springfield, a daughter, Susan Olmstead of Mesa, Arizona, and 5 grandchildren:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to salute Max DeForest, to convey to him this legislative body's most heartfelt thanks for the excellence of his military activities, and to express our sincerest best wishes for continued personal and professional success for many more years to come; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Max J. DeForest of Springfield, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Charlie Denison
District No. 135

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 3613, adopted June 1, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker